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P/3541-14

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Masayu HIGUCHI

Date: December 9, 2004

Serial No.: 09/932,652

Group Art Unit: 2615

Filed: August 17, 2001

Examiner: Tuan V. HO

For: ELECTRONIC CAMERA HAVING AN AUTOMATIC ELECTRIC FLASH
FUNCTION (As Amended)

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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AMENDMENT/SUBMISSION

Sir:

This is a response to the Office Action mailed September 9, 2004 in the above-identified application. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

FEE CALCULATION

Any additional fee required has been calculated as follows:

If checked, "Small Entity" status is claimed.

NO. CLAIMS AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	EXTRA PRESENT	RATE	ADDIT. FEE
TOTAL 15	MINUS 20	* = 0	X (\$25 SE or \$50)	\$0
INDEP. 4	MINUS 4	** = 0	X (\$100 SE or \$200)	\$0
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM			X (\$180 SE or \$360)	\$0
* not less than 20 ** not less than 3			TOTAL \$ 0	

If any additional payment is required, a check which includes the calculated fee of \$ 0932652
(OFGS Check No.) is attached.

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04/25/2005 PZIMMER 00000001 150700 0932652
Sale Ref: 00000001 DAH: 150700 0932652
10 FC:1251 120.00 DA
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In the event the actual fee is greater than the payment submitted or is inadvertently not enclosed or if any additional fee during the prosecution of this application is not paid, the Patent Office is authorized to charge the underpayment to Deposit Account No. 15-0700.

CONTINGENT EXTENSION REQUEST

If this communication is filed after the shortened statutory time period had elapsed and no separate Petition is enclosed, the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is petitioned, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), to extend the time for filing a response to the outstanding Office Action by the number of months which will avoid abandonment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.135. The fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 should be charged to our Deposit Account No. 15-0700.

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS

1. If checked, an abstract (an amended abstract) is submitted herewith.
2. If checked, amendment(s) to the drawings are submitted herewith.
3. If checked, amendment(s) to the specification are submitted herewith.
4. If checked, amendment(s) to the claims are submitted herewith.

flash light emission time is reduced, there will be insufficient exposure, thereby increasing gain in order to obtain adequate exposure.

On the other hand, in flash photography under low-intensity conditions, a long light emission time will be applied to the long exposure time, and thus, as the intensity becomes lower, the limitation of the upper limit of the flash light emission time becomes dominant. Accordingly, the gain is increased in order to increase the permissible range of exposure.

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that none of the independent claims in the application, including newly presented claim 16 and its dependent claims 17-18 can be said to be anticipated by the aforementioned reference, for the reasons indicated.

It is noted further that claims 5, 8, 10 and 11 were rejected on grounds of obviousness over the aforementioned reference. Reconsideration is requested.

In addition to the aforementioned remarks, which are of course applicable to these dependent claims, it is further noted that Yokonuma teaches only what is described above, and does not disclose or suggest that an alarm is issued. The Examiner has acknowledged this fact, and has further stated that the feature wherein "an alarm turns on when a gain in a camera circuit is changed" is well known. However, there is great significance in giving an alarm in advance, since if the gain increases, the image quality degrades due to the increase of the noise in the imaging signals. Therefore, this feature is not obvious.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, allow the claims and pass this case to issue.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 9, 2004

Max Moskowitz

Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative

Signature
December 9, 2004

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD
Effective October 1, 2000

Application or Docket Number

P 3541-14

CLAIMS AS FILED - PART I

(Column 1) (Column 2)

TOTAL CLAIMS	15	
FOR	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA
TOTAL CHARGEABLE CLAIMS	15 minus 20=	
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	4 minus 3 =	1
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT		<input type="checkbox"/>

* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2

CLAIMS AS AMENDED - PART II

(Column 1) (Column 2) (Column 3)

AMENDMENT A	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA
	Total	18	Minus	20
Independent	5	Minus	24	1
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM				

AMENDMENT B	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA
	Total	Minus	20	=
Independent	Minus	24	=	
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM				

AMENDMENT C	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA
	Total	Minus	20	=
Independent	Minus	24	=	
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM				

- * If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.
- ** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20."
- *** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3."

The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.

SMALL ENTITY
TYPE OR OTHER THAN
SMALL ENTITY

RATE	FEES	RATE	FEES
BASIC FEE	355.00	OR BASIC FEE	710.00
X\$ 9=		X\$18=	
X40=		X80=	80
+135=		+270=	
TOTAL		OR TOTAL	791

OTHER THAN
SMALL ENTITY

RATE	ADDI- TIONAL FEE	RATE	ADDI- TIONAL FEE
X\$ 9=		X\$18=	
X40=		X80=	200.00
+135=		+270=	
TOTAL ADDT. FEE		OR TOTAL ADDT. FEE	

RATE	ADDI- TIONAL FEE	RATE	ADDI- TIONAL FEE
X\$ 9=		X\$18=	
X40=		X80=	
+135=		+270=	
TOTAL ADDT. FEE		OR TOTAL ADDT. FEE	

RATE	ADDI- TIONAL FEE	RATE	ADDI- TIONAL FEE
X\$ 9=		X\$18=	
X40=		X80=	
+135=		+270=	
TOTAL ADDT. FEE		OR TOTAL ADDT. FEE	

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